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have an opportunity to serve in a head administration capacity. Because of her compassion for the people and the hard work she's done in the past, combining her with Steve makes a good nucleus for the executive branch.

Why appoint two executive officers instead of one?

My experience here and being on council for eight years is that the organization has grown so much. The job is really overwhelming for one person. To really tackle some of the issues we're facing and to be stronger and more progressive, it helps to have multiple people in that position. It's important that we have stability in that area.

Why was James M. Olguin your choice for vice chairman?

I took a week to decide on the vice chair because I really had a hard decision. I really have a lot of respect for my colleagues. It wasn't a decision made overnight. The wealth of experience he has in the organization — he's worked since he was 17 or 18 with the Southern Ute Indian Tribe — brings a lot of strength in that vice chairman's office. Also, his strength, education and work ethic — he's here every day. People have faith and respect him to work in that capacity.

What are your administration's major priorities going forward?

Services to the membership. That is the biggest thing that I want to tackle. We have to evaluate and assess those services that each department and division has. A parallel goal is to complete key performance indicators. That will really determine where we're at. One target service area is health, because the membership knows we've lost key employees over there. The council is really looking into health services for our membership, because without good health, we can't enjoy other services we like to receive. It's common sense. That's definitely what we're trying to focus on now.

Do you plan to approach the office of chairman any differently than your predecessors?

The biggest thing is having the ability or the strength to work with the council. I want to definitely build a bridge and work with my colleagues and, as the chairman, provide the resources and tools they need. Also, in general, I want to communicate with the council on things that I and my office do. I want to keep them updated so that they understand exactly what this office is doing. That brings support for one another.

What do you think can be done to preserve the tribe's culture and language in the 21st century?

I think it's being done now, as far as our Academy, teachers of the Ute language, the museum, our newly developed Culture & Language Committee. It's out there. It's really aggressive, too; it's positive. The support is out there. Tribal members want to know their language; they want to know their culture. It's happening now. Really, it's supporting those things that can be done right now.

How do you feel about the tribe's current financial direction?

We have our financial plan: That is our guide and our resource. If we follow what past leaders have created, we'll keep that 40-year projection of being financially fit. The key is just reviewing the financial plan and living within our means. Those are normal things that any business or organization would do.

Are there any current policies with which you take issue?

The dress code. I don't evaluate performance on dress. I evaluate performance on work, and the ability to work. I want to be judged on my work ethic and not the shoes I'm wearing. I believe in self-expression, too.

Wolf and coyote

One day the wolf saw the coyote carrying a bag with him, so he started out after the coyote and asked him what he had in the bag he was carrying.

But the coyote didn't want to show him what he had in the bag and he started running from the wolf, so the wolf chased him around and around. Finally he caught him, then he told the coyote to take out the things he had in the bag.

When he did take them out, they were all little people. He took out quite a few of them, and finally the coyote closed the bag really fast, and left very few in the bag.

The old man who told this story said that this was the few amount of people that are left here, as the Southern Ute people are now. He said if the wolf hadn't done this to the coyote there wouldn't have been so few Indians left here; there would have been more people today.

After all this had been done, the coyote told the wolf, "Now go and make your arrows. Now there is going to be a war."



photo Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM

— Excerpted from "The Southern Utes: A Tribal History" by James Jefferson, Robert W. Delaney and Gregory C. Thompson
Painting by Southern Ute tribal artist McGarey Gallegos

Ute Language

puatu - friend

piwa - spouse

piimHchi - to love



Editor's note: The Ute Language and translation are transcribed from the 2011 Ute Dictionary, ©1996.

Powwow Trails

Comanche Homecoming Benefit Powwow

January 14

Comanche nation Complex • Lawton, OK

Contact: Leonard Eschiti

Phone: 580-512-7280

Email: veschiti@gmail.com

NACA "Healthy Living" Powwow

January 16

1100 Cardenas Ave SE • Albuquerque, NM

Contact: Dawn Begay

Phone: 505-977-2311

Email: dawn.g.begay@gmail.com

Web: <http://nacaschool.org>

8th Annual Red Paint Powwow

January 20-22

Western NM University • Silvercity, NM

Phone: 575-534-1379

Email: apache@wolfhorseoutfitters.com

Web: www.redpaintpowwow.net

Kiyaksa Waniyetu Wacipi

January 28 — 29

Kyle, SD

Contact: MJ Bull Bear

Phone: 605-899-2460

Email: mjbb78@yahoo.com

28th Annual Elmira Powwow

February 4

24936 Fir Grove • Elmira, OR

Contact: Alan Merrill

Phone: 541-461-8228

Email: amerrill@lesd.k12.or.us

Web: <http://www.lesd.k12.or.us/indianeducation/index.html>

Mid-America All-Indian Center Benefit

February 11

650 N. Seneca • Wichita, KS

Contact: April Scott

Phone: 316-350-3340

Email: ascott@wichita.gov

Web: www.theindiancenter.org

Southern Ute Language 102 Class



- Learn to read, write and speak the Ute language
- Instruction by Alden Naranjo & Tom Givon

Open to community members

Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum

Large Classroom

Wednesdays 5:30-7:30 pm

Fridays 12:00-1:00 pm

January 18-May 16, 2012

Provided by the Southern Ute Cultural Department.

For more information, call Dr. Stacey Oberly at 970-563-0100 ext. 2306 or Nathan Strong Elk at 970-563-9588 or Dedra White at 307-349-4035

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